

Forest Service takes Kulshan kids to zoo

The Argus Staff

Children in the Kulshan Creek Neighborhood Youth Program in Mount Vernon traveled June 9 to the Woodland Park Zoo in Seattle to learn about native and exotic animal species.

The students were excited to see the elk, bear, eagles and wolves — species all native to the North Cascades ecosystem, said Korena Haynes, a fire prevention captain with the National Forest Service office in Sedro-Woolley. They also were eager to see the lions, tigers, zebras, and penguins, which are native to other areas of the world, she said.

Several families came along, enjoying the sunshine and animals with their young students, who climbed on the back of hippopotamus statue and on the monkey “tree.”

The zoo was hosting the annual “Bear Aware” where staff and volunteers provided talks and demonstrations on bear habitat and safety to visitors.

The Kulshan Creek program is a year-round outreach initiative that engages underserved youth from low-income neighborhoods in a variety of outdoor activities including all-day field trips and after-school programs. It is sponsored by a partnership between North Cascades Institute, the National Forest Service, Mount Vernon Police Department, Skagit Youth and Family Services, and the National Park Service.



Photo courtesy of the National Park Service

Lauren Kaawa, Vanessa Pantoja, Roberto Bautista from the Kulshan Creek Neighborhood Youth Program in Mount Vernon check out a bear skull June 9 at the Woodland Park Zoo in Seattle.

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